



PDC NEWS

711 Capitol Way, Room 206
Olympia Washington

Public Disclosure Commission

Christine Yorozu, Chair
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February 26, 2002

Volume 2 Issue No 2

Agency Request Legislation

HB 2320, the bill changing the C-3 reporting day from Friday to Monday, passed the House 97-0 and was passed out of the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Monday, February 25, 2002. It should be placed on the Senate calendar for early consideration the first week in March.

The PDC penalty bill, **HB 2321**, passed the House on Monday the 18th with a bi-partisan vote of 80-15. A hearing on the measure was held in the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Monday, February 25, 2002. The Commission is hopeful that the measure will be moved out of committee before the March 1st cut-off date and considered by the full Senate next week.

Advisory Matter

The Commission adopted a redistricting interpretation that would rely on the number of registered voters in the newly created legislative districts determined by county election officials on or before June 30, 2002 for the purposes of establishing the contribution limits from party and caucus committees to state office candidates.

Currently the limits to legislative and statewide office candidates from party and caucus committees are based on the number of registered voters at the time of the most recent general election in the jurisdiction. Redistricting created new legislative districts in which 2002 candidates are now seeking election and since the new legislative districts did not exist at the time of the "most recent general election" the Commission will use the registered voters in the jurisdiction as determined on or before June 30, 2002 as the number of registered voters to establish contribution limits.

Electronic Filing

Mandatory electronic filing of campaign finance reports became effective on January 1, 2002. Candidate and political committees that expended \$25,000 or more in 2001, or expect to expend \$25,000 or more in 2002 are required to file reports electronically.

As of February 2002, over 390 campaigns, lobbyist and financial affairs filers have signed up to submit reports electronically. There were 332 candidate and political committees and 65 lobbyists and financial affairs filers are ready to file electronically.

The Commission granted limited exceptions to electronic filing of campaign finance reports to State Representatives Steve Conway, Steve Van Loven and Mary Skinner. Each candidate cited a lack of technological ability to file reports electronically. The Commission delayed the requirement of filing electronically for these officials until 60 days after the end of the regular legislative session.

Enforcement Action

Citing apparent multiple violations and lack of adequate penalty authority, the Commission referred a case against **Protect our Pets and Wildlife** to the Attorney General's Office for action in Superior Court. Protect our Pets and Wildlife, a political committee supporting Initiative 713, was alleged to have violated RCW 42.17.080 and RCW 42.17.090 by failing to timely report orders placed and estimated expenditures during its 2000 initiative campaign. The Commission reserved the right to have the case revert back for further administrative action if the referral is not accepted by the Attorney General's Office.

The Commission accepted a stipulated agreement between the staff of the PDC and **James White, Mayor of the City of Kent**. Mr. White agreed the Commission would likely find multiple violations of campaign finance laws if the case were brought before the Commission in an enforcement hearing. He agreed to the maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 and that no public funds would be utilized to satisfy the penalty.

White was charged with violating the law by knowingly soliciting contributions from employees of the City of Kent and by using public facilities to assist his campaign for re-election as Mayor of Kent. The \$2,500 penalty must be paid in full within 90 days.

The Commission also postponed an enforcement hearing scheduled against **Jim Downs** for an alleged violation of RCW 42.17.130 by authorizing the use of resources of the City of SeaTac Fire Department to assist the 2000 campaign of Geoff Simpson for State Representative.

Reporting Modifications

The Commission granted a partial reporting modification to Active in Democracy, the political Committee of Tacoma Professional Firefighters Union allowing the substitution of the union's address for the personal addresses of member contributors.

The Commission renewed previous reporting modifications for Joseph Delay, Alternate Member, State Commission on Judicial Conduct and Dan Grausz, City Council Member, City of Mercer Island.

The Commission meeting materials may be found at www.pdc.wa.gov under **Commission Meetings** at **Meeting Agendas and Materials**. For additional information concerning these issues contact Doug Ellis, Director of Public Outreach, at (360) 664-2735, toll free 1-877-601-2828 or e-mail at dellis@pdc.wa.gov.